



Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

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MAYOR AND MADAFFER ANNOUNCE FINANCING PLAN FOR NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM

San Diego - Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmember Jim Madaffer today announced a \$312 million financing plan that will pay for a massive overhaul of the city's library system.

"Libraries are vital centers in our neighborhoods. They provide places for all San Diegans to learn and grow," said Mayor Murphy. "This financing plan will pay for a new main library and major upgrades to many of our branches. In effect, it will make it possible to build a new library system, meeting my Goal #7 of the ten I established for San Diego."

The plan calls for funding to come from a wide variety of sources. City-issued bonds will bring in the lion's share, producing more than \$177 million. The Redevelopment Agency will contribute almost \$43 million. Grants and private funds will account for approximately \$53 million. The city will gather the remaining money through development impact fees, facilities benefit assessment fees, federal funds and other city accounts.

"At long last, the much talked about need for a library system has the action we've been waiting for," said Councilmember Madaffer. "We're presenting the financial figures that move our plan from discussion to implementation."

In July, the Mayor and City Council approved an ambitious program to build or expand 24 libraries throughout the city. At the heart of the proposal is a 378,836-square-foot, \$149.5 million new main library in downtown San Diego. The plan also calls for new branch libraries in Balboa, College Heights/Rolando, Logan Heights, Mission Hills/Hillcrest, North Park, North University Community, Otay Mesa East, Paradise Hills, Point Loma, San Ysidro, Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa, and Skyline Hills.

In addition, the funds will pay for expansion projects in Carmel Mountain Ranch, Kensington/Normal Heights, La Jolla/Riford, Ocean Beach, Otay Mesa/Nestor, Pacific Beach/Taylor, Rancho Bernardo, San Carlos, Scripps Miramar Ranch, South University Community, and Tierrasanta. The library program calls for branches to be a minimum of 15,000 square feet in order to house meeting rooms, computer labs, separate areas for children and teens, and the other functions of a modern library.

The Mayor and City Council are scheduled to vote on the financing plan at their November 18 meeting.

In early 2001, Mayor Murphy asked Councilmember Madaffer to partner with him in the effort to improve the library system. Madaffer chairs the Council's Natural Resources and Culture Committee, which oversees library issues.

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